

REMARKS

The specification has been amended to make an editorial change therein.

The indication that claims 6-8, 11-12, and 14 include patentable subject matter is acknowledged with thanks. In reliance thereon, the subject matter of 6 has been amended into independent form by adding the subject matter of claim 1 thereto (the previously intervening claims not being of patentable significance to the subject matter of claim 6) and the subject matter of 11 has been amended into independent form by adding the subject matter of claim 9 thereto (the previously intervening claim not being of patentable significance to the subject matter of claim 11). Consideration and allowance of amended claims 6 and 11 are respectfully requested; these claims being allowable because they include subject matter indicated to be allowable.

Claims 1-3 and 9 were rejected as anticipated by ROLFE 5,313,645. Claims 4-5, 10, and 13 were rejected as unpatentable over ROLFE in view of BIGHAM et al. 6,041,056. The claims have been amended and reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections are respectfully requested.

Claims 1 and 9 have been amended so that the N loop lines are each connected to only one of the switches that is directly connected to one of the basic elements. This is shown, by way of example, in Figure 4 where loop 600 is connected to only one of the switches 00 that is directly connected to one of

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the basic elements 100-0. The loop 600 is also connected to switches 10, 20 and 30, but these are not directly connected to any of the basic elements. Each of the loops 601-603 are similarly connected to only one of the switches that is directly connected to a basic element.

ROLFE does not disclose that N loop lines are each connected to only one of the switches that is directly connected to one of the basic elements. Each of the loops is connected to several switches that are directly connected to respective basic elements. Note for example that loop 4 is connected to two switches such as element 041 that are directly connected to respective computers such as element 241. There is no suggestion to limit the switches in each loop so that only one of the switches per loop is directly connected to one of the computers.

New claim 15 is allowable for the same reason.

In view of the present amendment and the foregoing remarks, it is believed that the present application has been placed in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and allowance are respectfully requested.

Please charge the fee of \$400 for the two extra independent claims added herewith, to Deposit Account No. 25-0120.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any

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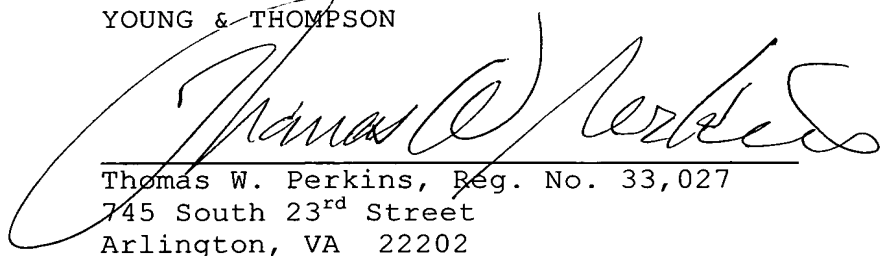
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fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17.

Respectfully submitted,

YOUNG & THOMPSON

A large, stylized handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Thomas W. Perkins", is written over a horizontal line.

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